

EXHIBIT A

Docket No. DN2003127
 Serial No. 10/630,022
 Filed July 30, 2003

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, We, Daniel Edward Bowen III, Thierry Florent Edme Materne and Sun-Lin Chen, of 143 Luden Avenue, Munroe Falls, Ohio 44262, U.S.A., 4797 Hawkins Road, Richfield, Ohio 44286, U.S.A., and 2712 Sun Valley Circle, Akron, Ohio 44333, U.S.A., respectively, have invented certain improvements in **PROCESS FOR PREPARING A SILICA/RUBBER BLEND**, and described in a patent application executed on July 25, 2003 * July 29, 2003 by the undersigned for filing in The United States of America, being owner(s) of all right, title and interest in and to said application and in and to any invention described therein and having full right to convey the entire interest both legal and equitable herein assigned; and

WHEREAS, THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY, of Akron, Ohio 44316, a corporation of the State of Ohio (assignee) is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said application and said invention described therein and any and all patents to be obtained therefor, all as hereinafter set forth:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of good and valuable consideration received by the undersigned, the undersigned does (do) hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over unto said assignee, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention or inventions, as described in the aforesaid application, in any form or embodiment thereof, and in and to the aforesaid application; and in and to any application filed in any foreign country based thereon, including the right to file said foreign applications under the provisions of the International Convention; also the entire right, title and interest in and to any and all patents or reissues or extensions thereof to be obtained in this or any foreign country upon said invention or inventions and any divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part or substitute applications which may be filed upon said invention or inventions in this or any foreign country; and the undersigned hereby authorize(s) and request(s) the issuing authority to issue any and all patents on said application or applications to said assignee or its successors and assigns.

The undersigned further agree(s) to execute all divisional, continuing, substitute, improvement, extension, reissue and other patent applications in this or any foreign country relating to said application or invention and to sign all other lawful papers and to perform all other lawful acts without further consideration, but without expense to myself (ourselves), which the assignee may deem necessary or desirable to make this Assignment fully effective including by way of example, but not of limitation, the following acts:

- (1) Prompt execution of all lawful oaths, affidavits and/or supplemental oaths required or deemed advisable by the assignee to further the prosecution of any application or applications for letters patent relating to the subject matter of this Assignment;
- (2) To cooperate to the best of my (our) ability in the execution of all lawful documents, the production of evidence, and the giving of testimony in interference, opposition, nullification or infringement proceedings involving the said invention or improvement, applications or patents or any of them.

The undersigned hereby authorize(s) said assignee to insert in this Assignment the serial number and filing date of the above-identified application when known.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has (have) hereunto set his (their) hand(s) and seal(s) on the date(s) set after his (their) signature(s).

<u>Alvin T. Rockhill</u> WITNESS	<u>(L.S.) Daniel Edward Bowen III</u> Daniel Edward Bowen III	<u>7/29/03</u>
<u>Alvin T. Rockhill</u> WITNESS	<u>(L.S.) Thierry Florent Edme Materne</u> Thierry Florent Edme Materne	<u>7/25/03</u>
<u>Alvin T. Rockhill</u> WITNESS	<u>(L.S.) Sun-Lin Chen</u> Sun-Lin Chen	<u>7/29/2003</u>

Docket No. DN2003127

State of Ohio)

SS:

County Summit)

On this 29th day of July, 2003, before me personally appeared Daniel Edward Bowen III to me personally known, and known to me to be the person who signed the foregoing assignment, and acknowledge the signing of same as his free act and deed.

Mary A. Nicoloff
Notary Public



MARY A. NICOLOFF
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 11-24-07

State of Ohio)

SS:

County Summit)

On this 25th day of July, 2003, before me personally appeared Thierry Florent Edme Mateme to me personally known, and known to me to be the person who signed the foregoing assignment, and acknowledge the signing of same as his free act and deed.

Mary A. Nicoloff
Notary Public



MARY A. NICOLOFF
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 11-24-07

State of Ohio)

SS:

County Summit)

On this 29th day of July, 2003, before me personally appeared Sun-Lin Chen to me personally known, and known to me to be the person who signed the foregoing assignment, and acknowledge the signing of same as his free act and deed.

Mary A. Nicoloff
Notary Public



MARY A. NICOLOFF
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 11-24-07